

SHAFTESBURY RURAL DISTRICT  
COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
FOR THE YEAR  
1959



Medical Officer of Health -

NOEL F. PEARSON, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector -

F.E. CASEMORE, A.I.A.S., M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.



1 ~~Dr. Ren~~  
2 ~~Dr. Ren~~  
North Dorset District

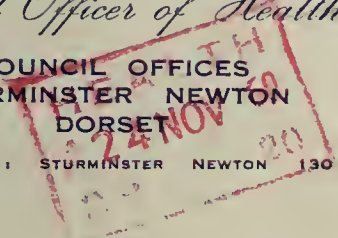
SHAFTESBURY BOROUGH  
SHAFTESBURY RURAL DISTRICT  
STURMINSTER RURAL DISTRICT  
SHERBORNE URBAN & RURAL DISTRICTS

With the Compliments  
of the

Medical Officer of Health

COUNCIL OFFICES  
STURMINSTER NEWTON  
DORSET

TELEPHONE : STURMINSTER NEWTON 130





SPECIAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH TO  
THE SHAFTESBURY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

M E A T   I N S P E C T I O N

Your new meat inspection scheme has now been in operation for some three months and an assessment can now be made of the improvements which have been achieved, its present efficiency and what recommendations are to be made for the future.

PREVIOUS HISTORY

One part time meat inspector was employed to cover the meat inspection at two bacon factories and one general slaughterhouse. The total number of animals slaughtered in 1959 were -

<u>Cattle, exclud-</u> <u>ing cows.</u>	<u>Cows</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Sheep and</u> <u>Lambs</u>	<u>Pigs</u>
57	98	4,243	4,141	105,527

The meat inspector was only in a position to examine carcasses and parts of carcasses suspected to be unfit by the slaughterhouses' carcass dressers. The result was that only 18% of the carcasses were actually inspected by your meat inspector.

As an indication of the inadequacy of this arrangement, it may be noted that, whilst the number of carcasses (or parts of carcasses) found to be infected with tuberculosis compared reasonably with the number generally found to be so at slaughterhouses where a qualified meat inspector examines all the carcasses, the number of carcasses (or parts of carcasses) found to be unfit by reason of conditions other than tuberculosis was considerably lower than the number expected to be found. In 1959, the percentage in pigs was 3.26% compared with a percentage of 17.95% since your new scheme has come into operation.

PRESENT ARRANGEMENTS

The part time meat inspector having ceased duties, two Public Health Inspectors were appointed as whole time meat inspectors and your Senior and Additional Public Health Inspectors commenced meat inspection duties. In terms of manpower, you now have the equivalent of two and a half whole time meat inspectors.

The coverage at each slaughterhouse is as follows:-

OAKE WOODS BACON FACTORY, GILLINGHAM


One whole time meat inspector is required approximately twenty-five hours per week.

Meat inspection carried out:-

100 per cent carcass inspection

50 per cent pluck inspection

No gut inspection



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## PRIDEAUX BACON FACTORY, MOTCOMBE

One whole time meat inspector is require approximately twenty two hours per week, assisted by a part time meat inspector (the Additional Public Health Inspector) for approximately fourteen hours per week.

Meat inspection carried out:-

100 per cent carcase inspection

100 per cent pluck inspection

No gut inspection.

## MESSRS MOODY'S SLAUGHTERHOUSE

Two whole time meat inspectors are required for an aggregate of twenty five hours per week. The inspections are carried out mainly after normal working hours on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and on Sundays.

Meat inspection carried out:-

90 per cent carcase inspection (as from November, 1960)

No pluck or gut inspection.

The above hours of inspection do not include time for clerical duties or travelling time.

The fourth meat inspector (part time) (the Senior Public Health Inspector) is employed on occasional meat inspection and is retained for relief at times of sickness and holidays. It is anticipated that this will occupy not less than one sixth of his time over the year.

The overall present position is that nearly all carcasses are inspected but this cannot be considered 100 per cent efficient carcase inspection until all offal is also inspected, as judgment of fitness for human consumption of a carcase depends in some part on fitness of the organs.

The deficiency in existing arrangements is due to :-

1. Shortage of meat inspectorate, due to:-

- (a) the fact that slaughtering at the two bacon factories and general slaughterhouse takes place mostly on the same days and at the same times.
- (b) that slaughtering at Messrs Moody's slaughterhouse is spread out over twelve hours in the day.
- (c) the method of slaughter and carcase dressing on the moving line system at the bacon factories, which requires not less than two inspectors to be present during the time of slaughter.

2. Unsatisfactory facilities being available for meat inspection at Messrs Moody's slaughterhouse. It is hoped that these will be able to be improved when the relevant sections of the Slaughterhouse (Hygiene) Regulations come into operation in the district.





It has never been considered that the present number of meat inspectors would achieve 100 per cent inspection. It was recommended that, in the first instance, only two inspectors should be appointed, so that, in the light of experience, the position could subsequently be reviewed.

Experience so far suggests that to achieve 100 per cent inspection of carcasses and offals at all the slaughterhouses an additional two whole time inspectors will be required, unless times of slaughtering can be changed.

It is not recommended that such additional staff should be appointed at the present time.

Since your new arrangements were made, the Ministry of Health have introduced a new type of meat inspector, not being Public Health Inspectors, but trained in meat inspection and for use, primarily in bacon factories, but suitable for use in meat inspection generally. It is anticipated that their salary scale will be lower than that of Public Health Inspectors holding meat inspection certificates. As the recruitment and training of these inspectors has only just commenced none are yet available and it will be some months before they are available.

Recommendation is, therefore, that present arrangements continue, with what improvements can be achieved and that the position is reviewed again in September 1961.

NOEL F. PEARSON

Medical Officer of Health.

23.11.60.



Council Offices,  
STURMINSTER NEWTON,  
Dorset.

1st June, 1960.

To The Chairman and Members,  
Shaftesbury Rural District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1959.

The report is prepared and will be circulated in accordance with the requirements of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations 1935 and 1951.

The report shows that the health of the District has remained satisfactory during the year and that there has been no undue incidence of serious communicable disease.

The vital statistics (page 1) compare very favourably with those for the Country as a whole.

I am indebted to your Chief Public Health Inspector, Mr. Casemore, for his co-operation and help during the year and for his assistance in preparing this report. I am also indebted to your Waterworks Manager, Mr. Burt, for his co-operation and assistance in compiling the sections of this report dealing with the water supplies of the district, and to my clerk, Mrs. J. Sammons for her efficient services during the year.

I would also like to acknowledge the happy co-operation and assistance I always obtain from your Clerk and the other members of your staff.

Finally, may I thank you, Madam and Gentlemen, for your courtesy and consideration throughout the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

God J Pearson.

Medical Officer of Health.



SHAFTESBURY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
FOR THE YEAR

1 9 5 9.

A. Area - 42,000 acres.

Rateable value: 1st April 1960 - £78,196.

Production of a penny rate: 1959/60 - £290 (estimate)  
1960/61 - £301 (estimate)

Vital Statistics.

Population (Registrar General's Estimate) - 9,840

LIVE BIRTHS.

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>		<u>Comparative Rates</u>	
Total	80	57	) Rate per 1,000 (a) Shaftesbury (b) England resident pop: R.D.C. & Wales. )= 13.9		
Legitimate	75	56			
Illegitimate	5	1		16.0	16.5

STILLBIRTHS.

Total	Nil	1	) Rate per 1,000 live & stillbirths = 7.2		
(Legitimate)				7.2	20.7

DEATHS.

Total	54	58	) Rate per 1,000 resident pop: = 11.4		
				9.8	11.6

Deaths in Infants.

Under 1 year	1	Nil	) Infantile death rate per 1,000 live births = 7.3		
Under 4 weeks	Nil	Nil			
Under 1 week	1	Nil		7.3	22.0

			<u>1959</u>	<u>1958</u>	<u>1957</u>	<u>1956.</u>
Deaths from Maternal Causes			Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
" " Tuberculosis			1	Nil	Nil	1
" " Cancer of the Lungs			Nil	3	1	1
" " Other Cancer			10	20	10	10
" " Coronary Disease(Angina)			21	10	13	15
" " Other Heart or Vascular diseases			46	41	38	-
" " Influenza			3	Nil	1	3
" " Pneumonia			6	8	1	3
" " Motor vehicle accidents			2	1	1	Nil
" " All other accidents			1	1	3	1
" " Suicide			1	1	1	2
" " Leukaemia & Aleukemia			Nil	2	Nil	Nil



B. Nature of the District.

The district is mainly rural in character with an urbanised area in Gillingham. The principal industries and trades of the district are of a mixed nature which includes brewing, glue and fertilizer mixing, brick making, timber works, glove manufacturing and the production of dried milk products. There are two large bacon factories in the district and also the National Stud.

C. Personal Health Services in the District.

The personal preventive health services in the district are provided by the Dorset County Council and these have been adequate and efficient.

The County Council, through the agency of the Gillingham Ambulance Committee and the St. John Ambulance Association in Shaftesbury, has provided the local ambulance facilities.

The laboratory facilities are provided by the Public Health Laboratory Service at the Salisbury and Dorchester Laboratories.

Prophylactic Inoculations.

Preventive inoculation against infectious disease is the responsibility of the County Council, through its school medical, child welfare and the private medical practitioner service.

During the year the following treatments were carried out (the figures in parenthesis are those for the preceding year.

Poliomyelitis (Six months to twenty-five years)

A poliomyelitis vaccination treatment session was held regularly in Shaftesbury on the second Thursday in the month and at Gillingham on the first Wednesday in the month from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Two treatments completed	1,175	(1,660)
Three treatments completed	1,593	-

Diphtheria

Primary treatments	160	(92)
Booster treatments	108	(112)

Whooping Cough

Primary treatments	132	(109)
Booster treatments	43	(18)

Tetanus

Primary treatments	119	(23)
Booster treatments	30	(3)

Smallpox

Primary vaccinations	117	(102)
Re-vaccinations	21	(1)

<u>B.C.G. Vaccination against tuberculosis</u>	93	-
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D. Environmental Health Services.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health (Part time) - Noel F. Pearson,  
M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,  
D.P.H.

He also acts as Medical Officer of Health to four other District Councils in the North Dorset Area and as Assistant County Medical Officer to the Dorset County Council.

The time available which he has to devote to his duties with your Council is one half day per week.

Chief Public Health Inspector (Part time) - F.E. Casemore,  
and Inspector of Meat & Other Foods. A.I.A.S., M.R.S.H.,  
M.A.P.H.I.

Senior Public Health Inspector - W.E. Breeds,  
and Inspector of Meat & other Foods. M.A.P.H.I., C.S.I.B.  
(Full time)

Additional Public Health Inspector - L.F. Warren,  
and Inspector of Meat & Other Foods M.A.P.H.I.

Meat Inspector (Part time) - Lt.Col. T. Sealy-Green,  
M.R.C.V.S.

Clerical Staff - One clerk (full time)

During the year the Council sought to integrate the work of the Public Health and Housing Committees by the joint appointment of Mr. Casemore as Chief Public Health Inspector and Surveyor.

WATER SUPPLY.

Quantity. Supplies throughout the year were adequate to meet the demand.

Quality. The bacteriological quality of the principal supplies remained satisfactory.

108 samples were submitted for bacteriological examination from the Council's supplies and 9 from private supplies.

One sample was taken for chemical examination.

New Works carried out during the year. The only new work carried out in the district was the laying of a new main at Kington Magna, connecting the mains laid a few years ago at Kington Magna with the existing main supplying Nyland. This was done to overcome shortages being experienced at the higher end of Nyland, such shortages being due entirely to increased water requirements which the small diameter main could not meet. These shortages have been experienced over a number of years, particularly at peak consumption periods, but since the new main has been in use the supply has been quite satisfactory.

New Connections made during the year:-

Domestic Supplies	23
Agricultural Supplies	15
Other Supplies	3

Distribution.

There are 3,233 houses in the Rural District of which -

- 3,102 are supplied with water from the Council's sources.
- 3 are supplied by Shaftesbury Borough Council
- 2 are supplied by Mere & Tisbury R.D.C.
- 2 are supplied by Sturminster R.D.C.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The Gillingham sewerage scheme was commenced in June.

Pail closets are gradually being replaced with W.C's having septic tanks and filters on properties away from the public sewers in Gillingham and Iwerne Minster.

It is satisfactory to note that the Council is intending to proceed with sewerage additional parishes in the foreseeable future.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

House Refuse and Salvage. The service for the collection of house refuse has continued as in previous years, providing a weekly service in Gillingham, a fortnightly one in six parishes and a monthly one in the remainder of the district.

Some tipping of refuse was made at the old camp site at Bourton in order to provide an approach road to the sewage works there.

The quantity of salvage collected during the year amounted to 133 tons compared with 73 tons in the preceding year. The income received from the sale of the salvage amounted to £729.14s.10d. compared with £546.10s.9d. in the preceding year.

Cesspool Emptying. No cesspool emptying is undertaken by the Council other than from its own Council house septic tanks.

RIVERS AND STREAMS POLLUTION.

Until adequate parish sewerage schemes can be provided, a gross amount of pollution of streams and ditches in the district cannot be avoided. This type of pollution is present in many parishes.

The river at Gillingham remains in a most unsatisfactory condition, but a considerable improvement is anticipated when the Gillingham Sewerage scheme is completed.



FACTORIES ACT, 1937. (Nil figures not given)

	<u>No. of Premises</u> <u>on register.</u>	<u>Inspec-</u> <u>tions.</u>	<u>Written</u> <u>Notices.</u>
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authority	6	18	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	39	2	1
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	-	-	-
Total -	45	20	1

No. of cases in which defects were:-

	<u>Found.</u>	<u>Remedied.</u>	<u>Referred by</u> <u>H.M.Inspec-</u> <u>tor.</u>
Unsuitable or defective Sanitary Conveniences	1	1	1
Total -	1	1	1

No. of Outworkers - 62 (Wearing apparel)

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

Complaints still continued to be received with regard to serious smell nuisance from the glue factory at Gillingham. Whilst the Council has endeavoured to give the firm every chance to take steps to remedy the buisance complained of it is clearly evident that more extreme measures will be essential if a public nuisance continues to recur.

Smoke observations were kept at factory chimneys during the latter part of the year and offences against the Clean Air Act, 1958 were detected. The Managements concerned were co-operative in endeavouring to take measures to prevent recurrence of offences.

SWIMMING BATHS.

During the year the very excellent Gillingham Swimming bath was opened. The fine summer taxed its capacity to the limit. An efficient automatic chlorination plant is in operation at this pool. Once the initial 'teething troubles' had been overcome, the water remained of consistant bacteriological purity throughout its period of use.

## MOVEABLE DWELLINGS AND CAMPING SITES.

There are no camping sites in the district. Licenses in connection with the occupation of seven moveable dwellings were granted during the year.

## SHOPS ACTS.

No. of inspections carried out	8
No. of defects found	Nil
No. of notices served	Nil
No. of notices complied with	Nil

## VERMINOUS PREMISES.

No premises were treated during the year for infestation with bugs or fleas.

A large number of complaints of fly infestations in roof spaces were received and treatments were carried out by pressure spraying and fumigation. In one case of extensive infestation, it was found that flies had dropped into the domestic water storage tank and partially blocked the service pipes.

Several complaints of cockroach infestation were received and treatments carried out.

## PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

The duties of the Council under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949 are carried out in the district by the North Dorset Joint Rodent Committee whose activities cover the five districts in the North Dorset area and the Beaminster Rural District. Six hundred and nine inspections were carried out during the year by the rodent operators.

## RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951.

No premises in the district are registered or licensed under this Act.

## PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951.

During the year there was one shop in the district licensed for the keeping and sale of pet animals under the above mentioned Act. Six inspections were carried out.

## SCHOOLS (INCLUDING SCHOOL CANTEENS)

It is pleasing to report that at Fontmell Magna village school pail closets have been abolished during the year and replaced by W.C's and a modern septic tank drainage system. Wash hand basins have been installed and provided with a hot and cold water supply.

The school canteen at Gillingham and the washing up conditions at other schools in the district have been inspected and improvements generally have been carried out.



No action was required to be taken during the year under these Acts with regard to the compulsory removal of persons in need of care and attention and living under insanitary conditions.

The existence of aged persons, living under unsatisfactory conditions who really require care and attention and who require institutional care, are known. Some of these people will not voluntarily accept such care and attention, preferring to live in their own home even though by all accepted standards of hygiene, their conditions are most unsatisfactory and danger to their welfare may be quite real.

It is considered that the old persons wishes and desires must be given first consideration in such cases and, unless there appears to be a very real danger to other people as a result, these cases are not reported to you for statutory action to be taken with a view to their compulsory removal to an institution.

HOUSING.

Total number of houses in the district 3,096

Inspection of dwelling houses during the year -

Total No. of dwelling houses inspected during the year 37  
No. of inspections made 55

No. of informal notices served 3  
No. of informal notices complied with 5  
No. of statutory notices served 1  
No. of statutory notices complied with 2

No. of houses reported under Section 16  
of the Housing Act, 1957 1  
Action taken by the local authority in respect  
of such houses -

Demolition or Closing Orders made 17  
Undertakings accepted for -

Closure 4  
Reconditioning -  
Other Action 6

No. of houses included in Clearance Areas during the year Nil

Slum Clearance.

Progress at a reduced pace was maintained during the year in dealing with unfit houses, although only one was represented under Section 16 of the Housing Act, 1958 compared with twenty seven in the preceding year.

Overcrowding.

No cases of statutory overcrowding were found or abated during the year.

Houses Let in Lodgings.

No houses are known to be let in lodgings.

### Improvement Grants.

Seven applications were received during the year in respect to 'standard' grants and twenty two in respect to 'discretionary' grants.

### New Houses.

Pending the completion of the Gillingham Sewage scheme no new houses were provided by the Council during the year, but plans were considered for a resumption of building in the Gillingham district during 1960.

Twenty four houses were built by private enterprise.

At the end of the year there were 163 applicants on the Council house waiting list compared with 98 at the beginning of the year.

### INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES.

#### Milk.

##### Food & Drugs Act, 1955.

No. of 'dealers' subject to licensing  
by the District Council \_\_\_\_\_ 8

No. of 'dairies' in the district subject  
to registration \_\_\_\_\_ 3

No. of 'distributors' subject to regis-  
tration \_\_\_\_\_ 3

#### Samples.

No. of samples of milk taken and submitted for examination during the year:-

	<u>Passed.</u>	<u>Failed.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Tuberculin tested -	25	3	28
Pasteurised -	12	-	12

#### Milk & Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959 - Regulation 20.

No action was called for or taken during the year.

#### Other Food Premises.

The number of food premises in the area, by type of business:-

Hotels, Restaurants, cafes and boarding houses _____	33
Canteens - (workplace) _____	2
Confectioners _____	9
Meat and Fish _____	10
Grocers _____	6
Mixed Stores _____	31
Boarding Schools and other residential institutions _____	5
Food factories, slaughterhouses and canteens _____	12
Stalls and Clubs _____	5
Other (including school kitchens) _____	18



No. of food premises subject to registration under Section 16 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1955 in respect of -

Ice Cream	<u>47</u>
Sausages & Prepared meats	<u>11</u>
Fish and Chips	<u>1</u>

No. of samples of ice-cream submitted for Methylene Blue Test 69

No. of premises inspected during the year 101  
No. of inspections carried out 138

#### Ice Cream (Heat Treatment etc) Regulations, 1947 - 1952.

There is only one ice-cream manufacturer in the district. The above regulations are found to work satisfactorily in respect of making ice cream on these premises.

The majority of ice cream sold, comes into the district pre-packed.

#### Byelaws in respect of Handling and Wrapping Food etc.

Such byelaws are operative within the district.

#### Food Inspection.

##### Slaughterhouses.

Three licensed slaughterhouses were in operation during the year, two of which were in connection with bacon factories, the remaining one being an abattoir dealing with calves, sheep and lambs from which only a small proportion of the carcasses are supplied to retail butchers for local consumption.

Toward the end of the year the Chief Public Health Inspector prepared a scheme to improve the meat inspection in the district. This scheme, involving the appointment of two whole time meat inspectors was accepted by the Council early in 1960.

During the year inspection of the three slaughterhouses in the district was carried out with a view to the Council submitting to the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, the formal report required under the Slaughterhouses Act, 1958.

The following table gives particulars of the total number of animals slaughtered.

Carcases and Offal Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	57	98	4,243	4,141	89,374
Number Inspected	39	90	248	566	18,575
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis &amp; Cysticerci.</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	2	-	35	18	716
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	11	24	2,198
Percentage of the number killed affected with disease other than tuberculosis and Cysticerci	3.50%	-	1.08%	1.01%	3.26%
<u>Tuberculosis only:</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	2	3	-	1	149
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	2	-	-	-	3,147
Percentage of the number killed affected with tuberculosis	7.01%	3.06%	-	.02%	3.68%
<u>Cysticercosis:</u>					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-

### Butchers and Other Shops.

Ten inspections were carried out. No unfit meat was detected.

### SUMMARY OF SANITARY INSPECTIONS CARRIED OUT.

Total No. of inspections (under all headings)	2,152
Total No. of informal notices served	165
Total No. of informal notices complied with	136
Total No. of statutory notices served	17
Total No. of statutory notices complied with	18
No. of prosecutions	Nil

### E. RADIATION HAZARDS

During the year Circular 57/59 was issued by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government and the Radioactive Substances Bill was introduced before Parliament.

The Circular reviewed the measures taken at the present time by the several Government departments concerned to assess and control radiation hazards.

The monitoring for natural background radiation and from nuclear fall out does appear to be a matter better undertaken by the central Government. It is however very important that the findings and interpretation of the findings, in readily understandable form should be made known to local authorities and their officers if the confidence of the public is to be best maintained.

If the Radioactive Substances Bill is not materially changed in its passage through Parliament, local authorities will be aware of the existence of premises within their district where radioactive material is in use and with regard to the authorised arrangement for the disposal of radioactive waste from such premises.

Although the control over the use and disposal of such materials will remain with the central Government, the information given under the Bill to local authorities will be of some advantage in connection with their responsibility for the maintenance of a healthy environment.



F. NOTIFIABLE DISEASE

Other than Tuberculosis -

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Total Cases Notified.</u>
Whooping Cough	4
Measles	84
Scarlet Fever	11
Polioomyelitis (P)	1
Acute Pneumonia	8

Tuberculosis -

<u>New Cases Notified</u>	
<u>Respiratory</u>	<u>Non-Respiratory</u>
3	3

Food Poisoning.

Two small outbreaks of suspected food poisoning occurred during the year. One outbreak was limited to three members of a family. The other occurred in an old peoples home where there were sixteen persons affected. In neither instance (following detailed investigation) was the cause of the outbreak established.

NOEL F. PEARSON

Medical Officer of Health.



